

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 6233

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES

REF: STATE 172095

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE SUBMITTED SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS, WHO WE HOPE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO ADDRESS THE QUESTIONS DURING HIS CONSULTATION.

2. THE GOB GENERALLY SHARES THE U.S. DESIRE THAT QHIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES NOT INTERFERE WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT IT HEEDS THE IMPERATIVES OF "LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY". THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTIONS ARE A PERFECT EXAMPLE: THE GOB WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE THE PROBLEM SOLVED, BUT SHOULD PROBLEMS ARISE, IT WILL GO ALONG WITH LA RESOLUTIONS ETC., EVEN IF THEY BECOME SO EXTREME AS TO BE DISTASTEFUL TO US. THIS WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, HAVE ANY DIECT EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AS FAR AS THE GOB WAS CONCERNED. MOVES ON CUBA, EITHER COLLECTIVE OR BY THE U.S., WOULD ALSO HAVE NO EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE BRAZILIAN RIGHT WING COULD BE EXPECTED TO GRUMBLE ABOUT A FURTHER EXAMPLE OF "DETENTE".

3. A FAILURE TO GET THE OPEC EXCLUSION FROM GSP REMOVED FROM
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THE TRA, ON THE OTHER HAND, COULD HAVE AN EFFECT, NOT BECAUSE

BRAZIL WAS ANYTHING BUT BADLY HURT BY THE OPEC PRICE RISE, BUT BECAUSE THE GOB WOULD SEE THE FAILURE AS A VICTORY FOR PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN THE U.S. CONGRESS, A VICTORY THAT IN BRAZILIAN EYES COULD ONLY SPELL TROUBLE FOR MEMBERS OF OTHER PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN GENERAL AND BRAZIL'S EXPORT DRIVE IN PARTICULAR.

4. IN SUM, THE GOB ASSIGNS A FAR LOWER PRIORITY TO THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES THAN TO ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. THESE RELATIONS ARE ONLY AFFECTED IF, AND TO THE DEGREE THAT, EFFECTS ARE PERCEIVED ON BRAZIL'S NATIONAL INTERESTS.

5. THERE IS, OF COURSE, A PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIMENSION: THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES INVOLVING THE U.S. NORMALLY DRAW CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION ON THE PART OF COLUMNISTS AND EDITORIAL WRITERS AS WELL AS STRAIGHT NEWS PLAY. OBVIOUSLY, WHERE BRAZIL HAS A VOTED INTEREST, AS IN OPEC - TRA, THE HEAT IS WHITER AND THE CRITICISM SHARPER THAN IT MIGHT BE OTHERWISE. WHETHER OR NOT SUCH MEDIA TREATMENT INFLUENCES BILATERAL RELATIONS AT THE GOVERNMENT ALEVEL, IT CAN INFLUENCE OLDER STUDENTS, TEACHERS, INTELLECTUALS, AND OTHER IMPORTANT AUDIENCES INTERESTED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S.

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